Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of the claims replaces and supersedes all previous listings.

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a label in the form of a layer composite, the method comprising:

(a) covering a ~~transparent~~ plastic film layer with a metallization layer having flat sides, wherein the entire area of said film layer serves as a substrate of said metallization layer,

(b) ~~flatly covering said metallization layer with a covering layer such that said metallization layer is arranged between said film layer and said covering layer, wherein said covering layer is flatly adhered to said metallization layer using a laminating layer, and wherein said metallization layer is completely covered on both of its flat sides,~~

~~(c) covering said plastic film layer on its side opposite of the metallization layer with a pressure sensitive adhesive layer,~~

[[(d)]] defining a peripheral edge of the label to be produced from said layer composite and producing a [[gap]] strip-shaped cutout extending ~~at least~~ through said metallization layer and along a margin of said peripheral edge, and

(c) covering at least said cutout with a sealing strip extending at least over the thickness of said metallization layer with the sealing strip extending into said

cutout and flatly covering said metallization layer with a transparent covering layer such that said metallization layer is arranged between said film layer and said covering layer, and wherein said metallization layer is completely covered on both of its flat sides, and

(d) cutting the label from said layer composite along said peripheral edge

~~(e) extending at least one of said laminating layer and said pressure sensitive adhesive layer into said gap to form a sealing strip which fills the gap~~.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein a strip-shaped cutout is produced in said metallization layer which extends to the peripheral edge of said layer composite defining the label contour.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said strip-shaped cutout is produced by removing said metallization layer mechanically or by lifting off the metallization layer by means of an adhesive tape.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein a [[gap]] strip-shaped cutout is produced in the metallization layer, wherein said [[gap]] strip-shaped cutout is

offset inward with respect to the peripheral edge defining the label contour ~~and wherein said gap forms the strip-shaped cutout~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein said [[gap]] strip-shaped cutout is engraved into the metallization layer or is produced by punching, or by removing the metallization layer by means of microwave energy or corona discharge or fluid or solid particle jet treatment or brush treatment or etching.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) The label of claim 37, wherein said ~~gap (45) is formed by a plurality of non-cohering regions of the metallization layer~~ strip-shaped cutout is formed by being cut out during the application of the metallization layer or by removing the metallization.

26. (Currently Amended) The label of claim 37, wherein said ~~gap (45)~~ strip-shaped cutout is formed as a punch cut that displaces material, or is engraved into the metallization layer, or is produced by removing the metallization layer by means of microwave energy or corona discharge or fluid or solid particle jet treatment or brush treatment or etching.

27. (Currently Amended) The label of claim 37, wherein said cover layer is formed as a plastic film layer.

28. (Currently Amended) The label of claim 27, wherein said ~~gap (45)~~ strip-shaped cutout extends through the metallization layer [[(31c)]] and at least partly into one of the layers selected from the group consisting of the plastic film layer and the cover layer.

29. (Currently Amended) The label of claim 28, wherein said ~~gap (45)~~ strip-shaped cutout extends completely through said layer.

30. (Currently Amended) The label of claim 37, wherein said sealing strip [[(41c)]] is part of a printing ink layer or of a connecting layer [[(33c)]] or of an adhesive layer intended to affix the label to an object [[(1)]].

31. (Withdrawn) A label in the form of a layer composite comprising a transparent plastic film layer (23b), a further plastic film layer (25b) covering said transparent film layer (23) flatly and forming a covering layer, and a metallization layer (31) arranged between said transparent film layer (23) and said further plastic film layer (25b; 27b), the metallization layer (31) being covered over its complete areas on both is flat sides and, at or close to at least one portion of a peripheral edge (35b) of said transparent film layer

(23b) defining a label contour, having a marginal edge (37b) which is covered by a sealing strip (41b) extending at least over the thickness of said metallization layer (31b),

wherein between said two film layers (23b, 25b), there is arranged a connecting layer (33b), wherein said connecting layer is selected from the group consisting of a laminating adhesive layer or a laminating varnish layer or contact adhesive layer, and wherein said connecting layer extends beyond the marginal edges of both the metallization layer (31b) and the two film layers (23b, 25b), and wherein said connecting layer reaches over the marginal edges of the two film layers (23b, 25b) to form said sealing strip (41b).

32. (Withdrawn) The label of claim 31, wherein said sealing strip (41) extends substantially along the entire peripheral edge of the label (11).

33. (Withdrawn) The label of claim 31, wherein a printing ink layer (29) is arranged in said layer composite between said film layer (23) and said metallization layer (31) or on the side of the transparent plastic film layer (23) facing away from the metallization layer (31), whrein said printing ink layer forms a decorative imprint.

34. (Withdrawn) The label of claim 31, wherein said label is an adhesive label, said metallization layer (31) being arranged in said layer composite between said transparent plastic film layer (23) and an adhesive layer (27) that is a contact adhesive layer used to affix the label to an object (1).

35. (Withdrawn) The label of claim 34, wherein said plastic film layer (23) forming the outermost layer of the label (11) and facing away from the adhesive layer (27) is formed as a stretched plastic film layer that can be shrunk back when heated, and wherein said label (11) forms a battery label that encases the peripheral surface of a substantially cylindrical body (1) of a dry battery and has edges {19, 21) projecting axially beyond the body (11) of the dry battery that can be shrunk onto the end faces of said battery.

36. (Withdrawn) The label of claim 35, wherein said plastic film layer (23) is stretched in a direction which runs in a peripheral direction relative to a battery body, and wherein said sealing strip (41) extends at least along a portion of the peripheral edge of said label (11) that extends in said stretching direction.

37. (Currently Amended) A label in the form of a layer composite, comprising a metallization layer [[(31c)]] having flat sides and being arranged between a plastic film layer [[(25c)]] and a transparent cover layer [[(23c)]], wherein said

metallization layer [[(31c)]] is flatly fixed to said plastic film layer [[(25c)]] at a first one of its flat sides;

a decoration [[(29c)]] printed onto said cover layer [[(23c)]];

a laminating layer [[(33c)]] flatly adhering the cover layer [[(23c)]] to a second one of the flat sides of the metallization layer [[(31c)]]; and

a pressure sensitive adhesive layer [[(27c)]] covering the film layer [[(25c)]] on its side opposite of the metallization layer [[(31c)]]; wherein all layers have peripheral edges [[(35c)]] which commonly define a label contour, wherein the metallization layer [[(31c)]] and the film layer [[(25c)]] close to its peripheral edges defining the label contour, but at a distance thereto has a ~~gap (45)~~ strip-shaped cutout extending along the label contour and forming a marginal edge [[(37c)]] of the metallization layer [[(31c)]] and wherein ~~at least one of~~ the laminating layer [[(33c)]] ~~and the pressure sensitive adhesive layer (27c) extends into the gap (45)~~ extends as far as the strip-like region and fills the strip-shaped cutout between the cover layer and plastic film layer to form a sealing strip [[(41c)]] which fills the ~~gap (45)~~ strip-shaped cutout and covers the marginal edge [[(37c)]] of said metallization layer [[(31c)]] over the thickness thereof.

38. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said covering layer is laminated onto said metallization layer in the form of a laminating adhesive layer.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein said laminating adhesive layer extends as far as the strip-like cutout and fills the latter between the plastic film layers and the covering layer.

40. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said metallization layer is vapor deposited onto said plastic film layer.

41. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising dimensioning said label so that it projects beyond a battery edge, thereby forming a projection, and dimensioning said strip-shaped cutout so that it is the width of the projection or is narrower than the projection.

42. (New) The label of claim 37, wherein said label comprises a projection which projects beyond a battery edge and wherein said strip-shaped cutout has the width of the projection or is narrower than the projection.